STRAWBERRY HILL NATIONAL SCHOOL
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School Safety Policy

1.Policy Statement

Strawberry Hill National School is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for all students, staff and visitors. We acknowledge our responsibility to comply with all the relevant health and safety legislation and to continually improve our safety practises.

This policy is prepared in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and complements the school's Safety Statement, ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all.

2. Responsibilities.

2.1 Board of Management.

- Ensure that appropriate resources and support are provided for the implementation of health and safety policies.
- Review and update the policy as needed.
- Appoint a designated Safety Officer responsible for overseeing safety measures.

2.2 Principal and School Management.

- Implement and enforce safety policies and procedures.
- Allocate responsibilities for safety tasks.
- Conduct regular safety inspections and risk assessments.

2.3 Teaching and Support Staff.

- Follow established safety procedures and guidelines.
- Report hazards, incidents and near misses promptly.
- Participate in health and safety training and drills.

2.4 Students.

- Adhere to school safety rules and guidelines.
- Report any safety concerns to a teacher or staff member.
- Participate in safety drills and exercises.

3. Risk Assessment and Management.

3.1 Risk Assessment.

- Identify and assess potential hazards within the school premises.
- Evaluate risks associated with activities and implement control measures to mitigate them.

- Regularly review and updates risk assessments.
- Detailed risk assessments and emergency evacuation steps are maintained in the H&S Folder on SharePoint.

3.2 Fire Safety.

- Maintain fire safety equipment and conduct fire drills regularly.
- Ensure that emergency exits are clearly marked and unobstructed.

3.3 Use of Orthopaedic Aids (Crutches, Boots, and Other Supports)

- Students arriving at school with orthopaedic aids, such as crutches, orthopaedic boots, or similar devices, must provide a medical note from a licensed healthcare professional. This note should:
  - Confirm the need for the aid.
  - Specify any restrictions or accommodations required (e.g., limitations on physical activity or movement).
  - Offer guidance for staff on supporting the student safely during school hours.
  - Risk assessments will be conducted to ensure the safety and accessibility of school facilities for students using orthopaedic aids.
  - Staff will be informed as necessary to assist students appropriately, ensuring their health and safety.

4. Health and Well-being.

4.1 Illness and Injury.

- Provide basic first aid facilities and ensure staff members are trained in first aid.
- Follow procedures for reporting and managing illnesses and injuries.

4.2 Hygiene and Sanitation.

- Provide good hygiene practices among students and staff.
- Ensure that sanitation facilities are clean and well maintained.

5. Emergency Procedures.

5.1 Emergency response.

- Develop and communicate clear procedures for responding to emergencies, including accidents, fires and evacuations.
- Regularly conduct emergency drills.

- Detailed emergency response plan is maintained in the H&S Folder on SharePoint.

6. Training and Communication.

6.1 Training

Principal and School Management:
Training in leadership of health and safety protocols, risk assessments, and emergency procedures. Expiry dates collected and to be monitored for re-training.

Teaching and Support Staff:
First Aid Training (including CPR and basic first-aid procedures). Expiry dates collected and to be monitored for re-training.

Manual Handling (for teachers involved in lifting or physical tasks).

Students:
Basic Safety Drills (Fire, seeking aid, and evacuation), Health and Hygiene Practices once a term.

6.2 Communication.

- Maintain open communication channels for reporting safety concerns.
- Disseminate safety information to all members of the school community.

7. Review and Improvement.

7.1 Policy Review.

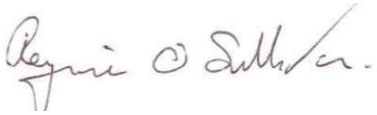
- Regularly review and update this Safety Policy to reflect changing needs and regulations.
- Seek feedback from staff, students and parents to improve safety measures.

7.2 Continuous Improvement.

- Continuously strive to improve safety practises and prevent accidents and incidents.

This safety policy is a living document and will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness in safeguarding the health and well-being of our school community.

Date of Policy Approval:

Signature of Chairperson, Board of Management: 

Date of Next Scheduled Review: 01/09/2027